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Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Contributions of the Latin American and Caribbean States parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco

Working paper submitted by the States parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco

1. The States parties and signatories to the Treaties of Tlatelolco (1967), Rarotonga (1985), Bangkok (1995), Pelindaba (1996) and on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (2009) — which have established nuclear-weapon-free zones — and Mongolia are convinced that the mere existence of nuclear weapons constitutes a threat to the survival of mankind and that their use would have catastrophic consequences for life on Earth. It is, therefore, fundamental to achieve the main goal of nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination and prohibition of nuclear weapons.

2. We reaffirm the need to advance towards the priority goal of nuclear disarmament and the elimination and prohibition of nuclear weapons. In this context, we reiterate our conviction that the achievement of this goal requires firm political will on the part of all States, particularly those possessing nuclear weapons.

3. We reaffirm that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is a violation of international law and of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, as stated in many General Assembly resolutions.

4. While noting some positive political signals coming from nuclear-weapon States of their renewed commitment to bilateral and multilateral nuclear disarmament, we expect them to be turned into concrete actions in the near future.

5. We recognize multilateralism as the core principle of disarmament negotiations and nuclear non-proliferation efforts aimed at maintaining, strengthening and enlarging the scope of universal nuclear disarmament norms, as well as the complementary nature of irreversible and verifiable unilateral and bilateral measures in this area.

6. We acknowledge that there have been some unilateral and bilateral cut-offs in nuclear arsenals, however, the lack of progress towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons remains a matter of serious concern. The fact that there are

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thousands of such weapons unaccounted for owing to the lack of transparency in nuclear weapon programmes is equally worrisome.

7. We stress that all nuclear disarmament initiatives should be irreversible, transparent and verifiable.

8. The establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones is based on agreements freely undertaken by interested States. Those agreements strengthen international and regional peace and security as well as the non-proliferation regime and contribute to achieving nuclear disarmament. The establishment of such zones and full compliance with those agreements ensure that considerable parts of the world become free of nuclear weapons. Therefore, respect by nuclear-weapon States for the denuclearized status of those zones constitutes an important measure towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

9. We reiterate the validity of the declaration adopted at the first Conference of States Parties and Signatories to the Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, held in Mexico City in April 2005, as a contribution to the process of disarmament and non-proliferation. We reaffirm our commitment to the full implementation of the declaration.

10. We urge the nuclear-weapon States and any other States mentioned in the relevant protocols to the treaties that established nuclear-weapon-free zones that have neither signed nor ratified such protocols to do so as a matter of priority.

11. We also urge the nuclear-weapon States that, having signed or ratified any of the pertinent protocols to treaties that established nuclear-weapon-free zones with reservations and unilateral interpretative declarations that affect the process of denuclearization of any zone, to modify or withdraw such reservations and/or declarations.

12. We welcome the establishment of the nuclear-weapon-free zones created by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba as positive steps towards achieving the objective of global nuclear disarmament. We also welcome the efforts undertaken to conclude the process of ratification of the Pelindaba Treaty, signed on 11 April 1996, through which a nuclear-weapon-free zone was established in Africa. We urge States in the region to ratify it, paving the way for its entry into force.

13. We welcome the entry into force of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia on 21 March 2009, and urge all nuclear-weapon States to sign and ratify the Protocol thereto in order to enable its full implementation.

14. We will continue to promote the establishment and consolidation of new nuclear-weapon-free zones all around the world as a means to achieve the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons. We therefore encourage all States to negotiate agreements that lead to the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones for example, in the Middle East and South Asia.

15. We are fully convinced that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is a fundamental instrument to foster nuclear disarmament and to enhance the non-proliferation regime. Hence, it should be a priority of the international community to reach its universalization. We therefore call upon the entire international community to make all necessary efforts to meet this objective. We

also urge those States that are not parties to the Treaty to adhere to it unconditionally as a matter of priority as non-nuclear-weapon States.

16. We express our deepest concern over the lack of progress in the implementation of the nuclear disarmament commitments agreed to during the 2000 Review Conference.

17. We urge the nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their obligations under article VI of the Treaty by expediting the implementation of the outcomes of the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences, which call for the total elimination of nuclear weapons by means of systematic and progressive efforts towards nuclear disarmament, in particular, the 13 steps agreed to in the outcome document of the 2000 Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II) and Corr.1), including the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States are committed.

18. The 2010 Review Conference should establish a subsidiary body on nuclear disarmament to address the issue of the implementation of obligations under article VI of the Treaty.

19. We believe that a phased programme to gradually eliminate all nuclear weapons should be established within a specific time frame. The negotiation of such a programme should take place at the Conference on Disarmament. For this purpose, we recognize the necessity of establishing in the Conference on Disarmament an appropriate subsidiary body with a mandate to negotiate nuclear disarmament. The Conference on Disarmament is urged to agree on a programme of work that includes the immediate establishment of such a body.

20. We reiterate our position with respect to the total ban on all nuclear tests and emphasize the need for reaching universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, particularly by all nuclear-weapon States, to contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. We highlight the importance of implementing a moratorium on nuclear weapon tests or any other kind of nuclear explosions until the entry into force of that Treaty. We reiterate that to fully meet the goals of the Treaty, it is essential that all signatories, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, maintain a standing commitment to total and unconditional disarmament. We call upon States that have not signed or ratified this instrument to do so as soon as possible.

21. The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or the threat of use of nuclear weapons. As a step towards a world free of nuclear weapons, we urge the nuclear-weapon States to provide the non-nuclear-weapon States with effective security assurances that the former will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against the latter. In addition to respecting the commitments undertaken in the context of Security Council resolution 984 (1995) and the legally binding negative security assurances contained in the pertinent protocols to the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties, we urge the nuclear-weapon States to take all necessary measures to negotiate and conclude a treaty on universal, unconditional and legally binding security assurances to the non-nuclear-weapon States. Until such a treaty comes into existence, we also urge nuclear-weapon States to fully respect the commitments already made in relation to negative security assurances. This issue should be addressed as a matter of priority at the 2010

Review Conference. We highlight the need for the establishment of a subsidiary body of the 2010 Review Conference on negative security assurances.

22. We reaffirm the inalienable right of all States to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without any kind of discrimination. Hence, we underscore the role the International Atomic Energy Agency plays in verifying that nuclear energy is being used only for peaceful uses.

23. We are convinced that any restriction or limitation on the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes should be consistent with the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and with the Charter of the United Nations. We underscore the importance of non-proliferation agreements being universal, transparent and non-discriminatory. In this context, we recognize that multilateralism is the cornerstone of disarmament negotiations and non-proliferation efforts.

24. Furthermore, we are convinced of the benefit that the use of the resources devoted to nuclear-weapon programmes could have for humanity if they were utilized for supporting social and economic development.

25. We recognize the importance of multilateralism and in particular the notable role played by the United Nations in the area of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and we reiterate our commitment to adopting measures to strengthen that role.

26. We emphasize the important role of the nuclear-weapon-free zones as constructive bridges in disarmament negotiations and dialogue. We will continue to pursue international efforts aiming at a world free of nuclear weapons. In this regard, we intend to foster cooperation among the nuclear-weapon-free zones to fully implement the objectives of the treaties. We express our interest in promoting initiatives aimed at strengthening national capacity and education in order to warn of the dangers posed by nuclear weapons and to promote their total elimination.

27. We renew our commitments towards strengthening cooperation and consultation mechanisms among the different nuclear-weapon-free zones. To accomplish this purpose, we will continue to promote the exchange of information among the zones and will work to coordinate our positions, as appropriate, in international forums, conferences and organizations.

28. In order to continue contributing to nuclear disarmament efforts, we, the States parties and signatories to the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba and on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, and Mongolia, decide to convene the second meeting of the States parties and signatories of the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties in 2010, in New York, prior to the 2010 Review Conference. We express our interest in making an effective contribution to the work of the third Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference, held in New York from 4 to 15 May 2009.